

wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of aqueous solution that are not in contact with said planar substrate whereby evaporation is reduced.

33. (Thrice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:
  - providing a planar substrate;
  - providing an oily liquid layer;
  - providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily liquid layer;
  - shooting a minute droplet by inkjet technique of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate, and
  - providing a covering in contact with said minute droplet of said aqueous solution, wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of said aqueous solution that are not in contact with said planar substrate and said covering whereby evaporation is reduced.
34. (Four times Amended) A process for conducting a PCR reaction in a minute droplet of an aqueous solution protected from evaporation comprising the steps of:
  - providing a planar substrate;
  - providing an oily liquid layer;
  - providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily liquid layer;
  - shooting a minute droplet by inkjet technique of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate;
  - providing a covering in contact with said oily liquid layer;
  - wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute droplet of said aqueous solution that are not in contact with said contact surface of said planar substrate;
  - providing to said protected minute droplet a reactant; and conducting a reaction in said produced minute droplet with said reactant whereby evaporation is reduced.

Please cancel claims 36 and 40.